

Removing Grouse Caecum for Total Worm Count



1. Dunk the bird in a bucket of water. This stops the feathers getting everywhere. We use Virkon but it doesn't have to be disinfectant.



2. Cut through the skin and peel back to reveal the breast and muscle below. Cut through the muscle beneath the keel.



3. Break the keel upwards to reveal the intestines.



4. Remove the intestines. They will have to be broken near the gizzard (white arrow) and at the rectum.



5. Identify the tips of the caecae (blue arrows). They are distinctive, pointy blind ended sacks.



6. Select one caecum and gently strip it from the other intestines.



7. Break off at the point where the caecum thins out and joins the gut (black arrow).



8. Place a single caecum into a leak proof container. Clearly label with Estate name and moor ID.

9. Worms will start to degrade after the death of the bird. Please refrigerate samples and submit to veterinary practice within 24-48 hrs of death. If not possible, freeze samples and submit to practice frozen in plenty of time to be posted that day (not on a Friday).
Vets: please state on paperwork that samples have been previously frozen.